

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8692

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJ: SERBIAN LEADERSHIP LINE-UP VARIOUSLY APPEARS

REF : ZAGREB 178

1. RECENT MEETINGS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEES (NOMINATING BODIES) IN LESKOVAC, NIS AND PROKUPLJE, SERBIA, ADOPTED OVERLAPPING BUT ALSO VARYING NOMINATING LISTS FOR POSITIONS IN FEDERAL AND SERBIAN GOVERNMENTS, PRESS REPORTED MAR 9 AND 11. ACCORDING TO OUR SCORECARD, FOLLOWING ARE PROBABLE CANDIDATES, BASED ON APPEARANCE ON THREE OR TWO LISTS WITHOUT OPPOSING NOMINEES ON THIRD: PETAR STAMBOLIC FOR SERBIAN MEMBER OF STATE PRESIDENCY, DRAGOSLAV MARKOVIC AS PRESIDENT OF SERBIAN PRESIDENCY, ZIVAN VASILJEVIC (MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT OF CC LCS) FOR PRESIDENT OF REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY, DUSAN CDREBIC (NOW PRESIDENT OF OF SERBIAN SAWPY) FOR PRESIDENT OF SERBIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

2. OPPONENTS AND FAVORITE SONS: NIS LIST SHOWED MILIJA RADOVANOVIC (PRESIDENT OF SERBIAN SUBNOR) AS NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SERBIAN PRESIDENCY BUT HE APPEARED ONLY AS CANDIDATE TO BE MEMBER OF SERBIAN PRESIDENCY ON OTHER  
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TWO SLATES, BOTH OF WHICH PROPOSED RADOVAN PANTOVIC

(VP OF OUTGOING SERBIAN ASSEMBLY) FOR PRESIDENCY VP SLOT. NIS LIST ALSO PUT FORWARD BORIVOJE DINIC AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF SOCIO-POLITICAL CHAMBER OF SERBIAN ASSEMBLY WHILE PROKUPJE PROPOSED VELIMIR MATIC FOR THAT POSITION. DINIC MAY BE CONSIDERED FAVORITE SON SICE HE IS NOT PRESIDENT OF NIS ASSEMBLY. MATIC IS MEMBER OF PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF SERBIAN CC.

3. COMMENT: IF OTHER REPUBLICS CONTINUE TREND SET BY SELECTION OF STAMBOLIC FROM SERBIA AND BAKARIC AND CROATIA FOR STATE PRESIDENCY, THAT BODY WILL TAKE ON CHARACTER OF OLD GUARD WHILE DYNAMISM MAY WELL GO OVER TO EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF LCY WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY GET THE YOUNGER TALENT. IN CONTRAST TO NEAT, SINGLE CROATIAN LIST ISSUED BY CENTRAL REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE, RELEASES OF SERBIAN NOMINATIONS THUS FAR REVEAL EITHER LACK OF COORDINATION IN GRASSROOTS "SPONTANEITEY" OR MISTAKE OUT IN PROVINCES IN TAKING WORKERS DEMOCRACY RHETORIC TOO MUCH TO HEART. NO CONVENIENT EXPLANATION SUFFICES FOR OPPOSING CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT OF SOCIO-POLITICAL CHAMBER OF ASSEMBLY. PERHAPS IT CAN BE CHALKED UP TO A MISSED CUE, WITH CHARITABLE OBSERVATION THAT THEY DID GET ALL OF THE BIG ONES RIGHT, SO FAR.  
JOHNSON

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